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18 POINT REYES SEASHORE RANCHERS ASSOCIATION

19 UNITED STATES DISTRICT COURT  
20 NORTHERN DISTRICT OF CALIFORNIA

21 RESOURCE RENEWAL INSTITUTE;  
22 CENTER FOR BIOLOGICAL DIVERSITY;  
23 and WESTERN WATERSHEDS PROJECT,

24 Plaintiffs,

25 v.

26 NATIONAL PARK SERVICE, a federal  
27 agency,

28 Defendant,

POINT REYES SEASHORE RANCHERS  
ASSOCIATION,

Proposed Defendant-  
Intervenor.

Case Number: 4:22-cv-00145-KAW

**DECLARATION OF RICHARD GROSSI**

1 I, Richard Grossi, under threat of penalty of law and pursuant to 28 U.S.C. § 1746, do  
2 hereby declare as follows:

3 1. I make this declaration in support of proposed intervenors' Motion to Intervene in  
4 the above-referenced case. I am competent to testify about the matters set forth herein  
5 and am over 18 years of age.

6 2. I am a member of the Point Reyes Seashore Ranchers Association ("PRSRA")  
7 that seeks intervention in this case and I have personal interests at stake, and knowledge  
8 concerning, this litigation.

9 3. My ancestors first immigrated to the Point Reyes area (now known as the Point  
10 Reyes National Seashore, or "Seashore") in 1891 from Switzerland. Upon moving to the  
11 United States, my grandfather, Dominico Grossi began his new life in America by  
12 working in the dairying business in what is now known as the "Pierce Ranch." In 1938,  
13 after working hard and saving every cent possible, my grandfather was able to purchase  
14 the "M Ranch" for my father, Domingo Grossi, to start our own family dairy. Today,  
15 Grossi Ranch continues as a fifth generation family business and is owned and operated  
16 by me, my wife Jackie Grossi, and my daughters and their families. I have been an  
17 integral part of our family business since my childhood and plan to spend the remainder  
18 of my life on the M Ranch engaged in our family business and to carry forward the  
19 agricultural tradition, family business, and desire to pass on our family tradition and way  
20 of life to my heirs.

21 4. I have lived on what was once my family estate, the M Ranch, for virtually my  
22 entire life. Other than the first four years of my life, I have both lived and worked on the  
23 M Ranch, and raised my own family there.

24 5. The Grossi Ranch was initially engaged in the dairying business from 1939 until  
25 the 1970s, when under fear of eminent domain, we felt forced to sell our family land to  
26 the Federal government. Upon sale to the government, we were granted a 20-year right  
27 of use and occupancy, which has now expired, yet it is my understanding that the purpose  
28 of the 1962 legislation was to continue ranching indefinitely on the Seashore. After

1 expiration of our retained rights, we were operating under five-year special use permits  
2 (“SUPs”) issued by NPS. However, based on our communications with NPS, we  
3 understood that long-term authorizations would be forthcoming in the near future. A  
4 statement from U.S. Secretary of the Interior Kan Salazar acknowledged this  
5 understanding and laid out the NPS’s intention to pursue 20-year leases with the ranches  
6 remaining on the Seashore.

7 6. More recently, we were advised to expect only annual authorizations or letters of  
8 intent until completion of the Comprehensive Ranch Management Plan process begun in  
9 2014 and similar short-term “Interim Leases” pursuant to a settlement agreement in  
10 *Resource Renewal Institute, et al. v. National Park Serv.*, Case No. 4:16-cv-00688-SBA  
11 (N.D. Cal.). These short-term authorizations hinder our ability to qualify for certain  
12 grants, some of which would be to fund projects that would provide ecological benefits to  
13 the Seashore. Authorizations for cattle ranching and residential use issued only on an  
14 annual basis have delayed us from being able to engage in meaningful succession  
15 planning. The short-term authorizations also prevent us from stabilizing our family  
16 business and allowing us to make informed capital investment decisions, some of which  
17 would have environmental benefits to the area.

18 7. Our family ranching business is, and for generations has always been, the source  
19 of income, livelihood, and economic well-being for our family. Without the ability to  
20 graze on the Seashore, me and my family, and our family business, would be  
21 economically devastated if our grazing and residential authorizations were discontinued.

22 8. As a multigenerational ranch, we are also deeply invested in the quality of the  
23 Seashore’s natural resources. My legacy is to leave this ranch in better condition than  
24 when I started ranching. I have personally witnessed some of the ecological benefits of  
25 grazing that our ranching operation offers the Seashore. Our grazed California Coastal  
26 Prairie grasslands support a wide variety of native wildlife and a multitude of birdlife that  
27 I, other Seashore ranchers, and many visitors enjoy. Our family has repaired erosion  
28 areas, enhanced multiple freshwater sources for both domestic animals and wildlife,




1 protected wetland areas, and implemented rotational grazing to enhance habitat for the  
2 health of the ecosystem on the Grossi Ranch. Endangered plant species are benefitted by  
3 livestock grazing that prevents the native grasslands from being invaded by brush. We  
4 have also worked with NPS to keep noxious plants, such as Cape Weed, which is  
5 extremely invasive, from taking over the native grasslands. Our family ranch has, and  
6 continues to provide, ecological benefits by maintaining the native quality of these  
7 grasslands, which benefits both the pastoral scenery and wildlife habitat – two of the  
8 significant attributes that led to the establishment of the Seashore.

9 9. As described above, I am personally fully invested in the administration of the  
10 public lands of the Point Reyes National Seashore (including being a part of a family that  
11 has contributed to the quality and nature of the Seashore), and know (by way of various  
12 community meetings and personal conversations) that other similarly situated permittees  
13 within the agricultural community of the Seashore share my concerns about the  
14 uncertainty to the agricultural businesses, way of life, and homes, that this litigation  
15 presents.

16 I declare under penalty of perjury that the foregoing is true and correct to the best of my  
17 personal knowledge.

18 Dated: 4-10-22

19   
20 Richard Grossi